

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1-19, 21-32, and 34 are now pending in the application. Claims 20 and 33 have been previously canceled. The Examiner has allowed claims 1-19, 21-27, 32, and 34. Claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 11-12, 15, 17-19, 21-24, and 27 have been amended to remove redundant words and better set forth antecedent basis.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Examiner Interview conducted on December 10, 2007. The Examiner stated that Higashino et al., Homma, and Matsumoto et al. do not teach the limitations of Claims 28 and 30 and therefore the claims would be allowable unless another reference is found. The Examiner further stated that if another reference is found, he would call and provide the Applicant an opportunity to further amend the claims.

***Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The Examiner has rejected Claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Higashino et al. (US 7,030,839) in view of Matsumoto et al. (US 5,854,540). The Examiner has rejected Claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Homma (US 2003/0141824) in view of Matsumoto et al.

The Claim 28 includes (underlining added for emphasis) "... applying a setup pulse for forming a first space charge at a selected discharge cell to the discharge cell." The Claim 30 includes (underlining added for emphasis) "... in the sustain period: applying a pulse for discharging the selected discharge cell to the discharge cells to generate priming." The Applicant submits that the above limitations as claimed in Claim 28 and Claim 30 are neither taught nor suggested nor are an obvious result from a reasonable combination of the teachings in the references Higashino et al. (US 7,030,839) and Matsumoto et al. (US 5,854,540), alone or in combination.

In item 3 of page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Higashino et al. teaches on page 3, paragraphs [0033] - [0036] "applying a setup pulse for forming a first space charge at

a selected discharge cell to the discharge cell; and establishing the first space charge formed by the setup pulse as a priming element." However, the Examiner stated in the Office Action of 7/10/2007 on page 4 that Higashino et al. fails to teach the above limitations. The Applicant asserts the argument presented in the response of May 24, 2007 that Higashino et al. teaches that after the address period in which a discharge cell is selected, only a sustain pulse is applied for sustaining an illumination (column 4, lines 52-54 of US 7,030,839; page 3, paragraph [0033] of US Patent Publication 2003/0020674).

The Examiner also states that Matsumoto et al. teaches the above limitations. Matsumoto et al., while providing for a write/priming pulse Pp (column 2, line 63 to column 3, line 6), does not disclose the above limitations. In Matsumoto et al., the write/priming pulse Pp occurs during the reset period (see FIG. 20, column 2, line 67 to column 3, line 1 - the priming pulse is applied at point a). That is, as depicted in FIG. 20, the priming pulse Pp is applied to a non-selected discharge cell in the reset period. Thus, because the priming pulse Pp is applied before a discharge cell is selected in the address period (rather than after a discharge cell is selected), Matsumoto et al. does not teach a priming pulse applied to a cell that has already been selected in the address period. That is, Matsumoto et al. does not each (underlining added for emphasis) "applying a setup pulse for forming a first space charge at a selected discharge cell to the discharge cell."

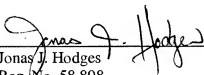
Further, Matsumoto et al. does not teach (underlining added for emphasis) "in the sustain period: applying a pulse for discharging the selected discharge cell to the discharge cells to generate priming." The Examiner points to the abstract, FIGs. 13-16; and to column 10, lines 13-41. Matsumoto et al. teaches a priming pulse Pp and an erasing pulse Ep, both of which occur in a reset period (abstract; FIGs. 13-16), but not in a sustain period. Column 10, lines 18 and 27 discuss a priming pulse, but such priming pulse occurs in the reset period as depicted in FIGs. 13-16. Therefore, Matsumoto et al. does not teach (underlining added for emphasis) "in the sustain period: applying a pulse for discharging the selected discharge cell to the discharge cells to generate priming."

**Appln No. 10/796,225**  
**Amdt date February 13, 2008**  
**Reply to Office action of November 26, 2007**

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, and therefore Claims 28 and 30 are patentable over Higashino in view of Matsumoto et al. Claim 29 is dependent on Claim 28 and therefore include all of the limitations of Claim 28 and additional limitations therein. As such, these claims are also allowable based upon Claim 28 and the additional limitations therein. Claim 31 is dependent on Claim 30 and therefore include all of the limitations of Claim 30 and additional limitations therein. As such, these claims are also allowable based upon Claim 30 and the additional limitations therein.

Therefore, in view of the above amendment and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. As such, allowance of the above Application is requested. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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